



SERVICE SIGNS

As you travel along Georgia's highways, the following blue and white signs will give advance notice of service facilities located along the route.



Road Side Park
and Rest Area

GUIDE SIGNS

Guide signs are your best friend when you are driving, especially if you are away from home. They tell you where you are, what road you are on, and how to get to where you wish to go. Many guide signs are rectangular, but some have other shapes as shown for interstate signs. There are several different kinds of guide signs — route markers, information, destination, distance, and location signs. Here are some examples:





Milepost markers are placed each mile along the edge of the roadway from one end of the state to the other. Zero always starts at the south or west borders where route begins.

Intersection U.S. Route 47 & Ga 38. These roads are going to cross or meet the highway you are using.



The numbers on these signs designate specific exits.



Look for this sign when you want to park. It points to a nearby public parking area.



This sign is used to mark an officially designated bicycle trail. Watch for cyclists if you are on this road.

The crossbuck is placed at all railroad crossings. Yield to any approaching trains. Slow down, look and listen before crossing. A sign below the crossbuck indicates the number of tracks. A complete stop is required when a red light is flashing.



Caution — a vehicle displaying this emblem is a slow moving vehicle. A slow moving vehicle is defined as any vehicle moving less than 25 miles per hour. They are required by law to display this emblem.



TRAFFIC SIGNALS

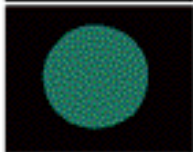
Traffic signals are placed at intersections to control the orderly movement of traffic and to prevent accidents. Drivers (including bicyclists) and pedestrians must obey these signals except when an officer is directing traffic. In the event that a traffic signal is inoperable at an intersection then all traffic will stop for such intersection in the same manner as if a stop sign was posted.



A red light means you must make a complete stop before entering the crosswalk or intersection and wait until the light turns to green before proceeding.



A yellow light warns the light is changing from green to red. Slow down and prepare to stop.



A green light means you may proceed if it is safe to do so after yielding to pedestrians and vehicles within the intersection.



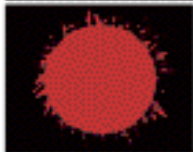
A green arrow means you may proceed carefully only in the direction the arrow is pointing after yielding to pedestrians and vehicles within the intersection. In this case you may go straight ahead only.



A green arrow, in this case, means you may turn in the direction of the arrow.



A yellow arrow may appear after a green arrow and warns you to clear the intersection.



A red flashing light means you must stop completely then proceed with caution.



A yellow flashing light means you must slow down and exercise caution before proceeding through the intersection.



LANE CONTROL SIGNALS



"Steady" — clear the lane
"Flashing" — left turn
permitted.

Travel in lane

OVERHEAD LANE SIGNS



PEDESTRIAN SIGNALS

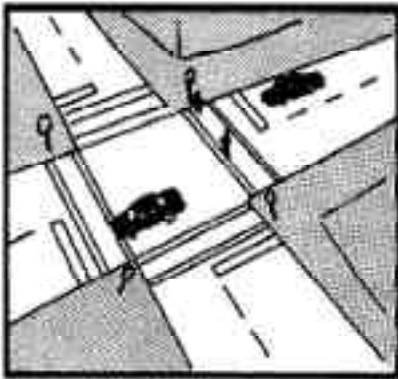


Leave the curb to cross
street



"Flashing" do not leave
curb but complete cross-
ing.



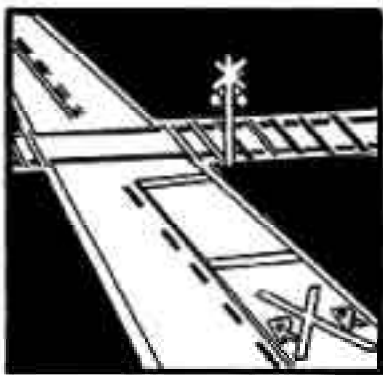


Stop Lines

Stop lines are white lines painted across the pavement at intersections indicating the exact place to stop. In urban areas the line is usually located about four feet before the crosswalk. Drivers must come to a complete stop at the stop line, when present, not at the stop sign or traffic signal.

Crosswalk Lines

These white lines are painted across, or partially across the pavement. When pedestrians are in the crosswalks, they have the right-of-way over motor vehicles. Crosswalks are sometimes in the middle of a block in residential areas, and in some cases, a pedestrian crossing signal is located at the white line.



Railroad Crossings and Crossbucks

In the front of railroad crossings, the pavement is sometimes marked with a large X and two RR's. This is known as a crossbuck. At railroad crossings a yellow line is always placed on the right side of the center line to prevent passing. The crossing is sometimes equipped with control arms and/or emergency lights, to warn drivers of approaching trains. The driver of the vehicle must stop if warning signals say a train is approaching.

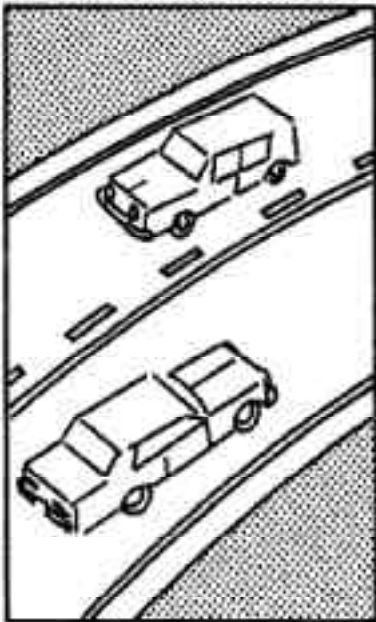
Georgia Code Section 40-6-96: Pedestrians Walking On or Along Roadway.

- (f) No pedestrians shall pass through, around, over, or under any crossing gate or barrier at a railroad grade crossing or bridge while such gate or barrier is closed or is being opened or closed.



PAVEMENT MARKINGS

Pavement markings, like highway signs, are used to warn and direct drivers to regulate traffic. As with highway signs, pavement markings are also being changed to meet U.S. Department of Transportation requirements. As old markings wear out, they will be repainted as described below.



Center Lines

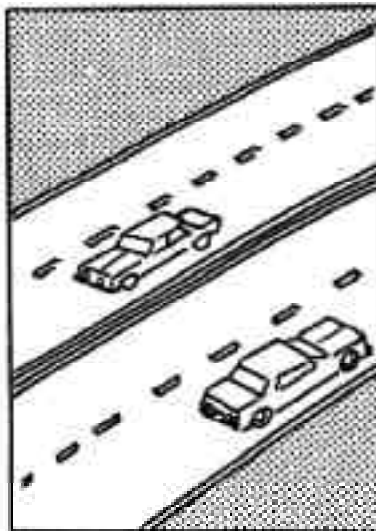
These are used to separate traffic moving in opposite directions on paved roadways. Broken yellow lines are used when there are only two lanes.

No Passing Lines

These are the single, solid yellow lines on two-lane roads which indicate zones where passing is prohibited. These single, solid yellow lines will be located on the right of the broken yellow line when they apply to you.

Edgelines

These are the solid white lines along the side of the pavement. They serve as safety guides, especially at night when it is difficult to see the edge of the road. A yellow edge line may be used on the left side to warn of narrow or raised medians.



Lane Lines

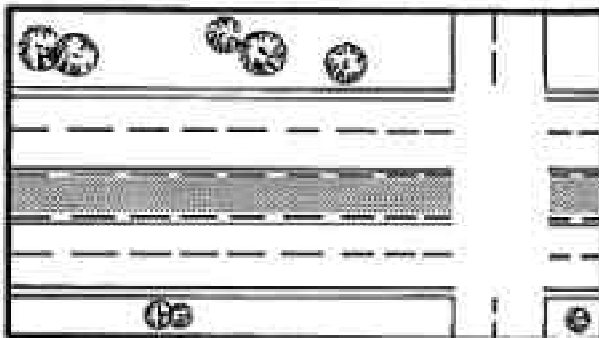
These are the white dashes which divide streets and highways having more than one lane for traffic moving in the same direction.

When there are four or more lanes with traffic moving in opposite directions, two solid yellow lines mark the center of the roadway. You may cross these lines only to make a left turn into or from an alley, private road, driveway, or other street.



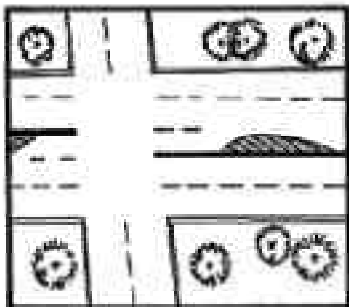
TURN LANES

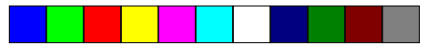
This lane, solid yellow and broken yellow, is in the center of streets and highways to make left turns. A vehicle desiring to turn left should proceed to the turn lane just prior to making left turn. Georgia law prohibits the use of this lane for any purpose other than making a left turn. You may enter this lane no more than 300 feet from the location of the left turn.



TRAFFIC STRIPING

These markings, diagonal yellow lines, are on streets and highways indicating that the road is narrowing or there is an obstruction on the roadway. The area is similar to a triangle with solid yellow diagonal lines within the outside lines. Always keep to right of markings.





Chapter 4 Traffic Laws

Traffic laws are the rules that govern your privilege to drive and if you do not follow them explicitly you will be penalized, fined, or potentially lose your privilege to drive. It is especially important to remember, however, that traffic laws exist for your own protection. If you disobey them, you run the risk of injuring yourself or someone else. To obey the laws, you must first know and understand them. Traffic laws are necessary to provide for the orderly movement of vehicles and pedestrians, and the prevention of accidents.

Here are three general traffic laws you should know.

1. It is a misdemeanor for any person to disregard a traffic law or fail to do something required by the traffic laws of this State.
2. Everyone must obey the orders of a law enforcement officer or firefighter who is directing traffic.
3. It is against the law to drive onto a officially closed roadway or onto a section of highway before it has been officially opened.

LAWS GOVERNING RIGHT-OF-WAY

To be a safe driver, whether you are in a vehicle or on a bicycle, you must understand that, in every situation, the right-of-way is something which is to be given, not taken. If the other driver is not following the rules, let them have the right-of-way, even if it really belongs to you; otherwise, you will be gambling with the lives of yourself and your passengers.

Drivers must yield to other drivers:

1. At any intersection where there is a stop sign, you may proceed only after stopping and yielding the right-of-way to any other vehicle either in the intersection, or so close to it as to make it dangerous.
2. At intersections where there are no stop signs, yield signs or traffic signals, the driver of the vehicle on the left must yield to the driver of the vehicle on the right, if they approach or enter the intersection from different roadways at about the same time. (This usually occurs during power outages.)
3. At a four-way stop intersection, when more than one driver reaches it at almost the same time, the first one to stop should be the first to go, if safe to do so, and others should take their turns. There are three other things to remember:
 - a. Don't delay traffic behind you – take your turn when it comes.
 - b. If another driver tries to take your turn, let them proceed. It might prevent an accident.
 - c. Care, courtesy and common sense should govern your actions.



4. When making a left turn at an intersection, alley or driveway, yield the right-of-way to all traffic from the opposite direction, then proceed when safe.
5. When approaching a yield sign, slow down to a speed reasonable for existing conditions, and if it is necessary to stop for the purpose of safety, follow the procedure outlined for stop signs.
6. When approaching a merging traffic sign, adjust your speed and vehicle position in order to merge into a lane safely.
7. At intersections, even after getting a green light, wait until all cross traffic has safely cleared the intersection.
8. If you are about to enter or cross a highway from an alley, private road or highway, you must stop, and yield the right-of-way to all other vehicles on the street or highway before proceeding.
9. If police or authorized emergency vehicles, which utilize blue or red lights, are using either/both sirens and lights, you must pull over onto the right-hand shoulder and stop, if possible, until the emergency vehicle has passed. Intersections must not be blocked. In all cases pull to the right and stop!

NOTE: All police vehicles are required to use blue emergency lights. All ambulances, fire trucks, and certain public utility vehicles are required to use red emergency lights. All wreckers and other emergency vehicles are required to use amber emergency lights.

10. Yield to all highway maintenance vehicles and workers in a construction zone.
11. It is permissible to make a right turn on red at an intersection controlled by a traffic control light after a complete stop, unless a sign posted at that intersection does not allow turning.
12. It is permissible to make a left turn on a red signal from the left-hand lane of a one way street only onto a one way street on which the traffic moves toward the driver's left. You must yield the right-of-way to pedestrians and other traffic proceeding as directed by the signal at such intersection.
13. You must stop when approaching a stopped school bus that has the stop sign out and the flashing lights on, for the purpose of loading or unloading passengers; and you shall not proceed until the school bus resumes motion. On a highway divided by a median, cars coming from the opposite direction are not required to stop. Remember to use caution. Children can be unpredictable.



Drivers must yield to pedestrians:

1. The driver of a vehicle shall stop and remain stopped to allow a pedestrian to cross the roadway within a crosswalk when the pedestrian is upon the half of the roadway upon which the vehicle is traveling, or when the pedestrian is approaching and is within one lane of the half of the roadway on which the vehicle is traveling or onto which it is turning. For the purposes of this subsection, "half of the roadway" means all traffic lanes carrying traffic in one direction of travel.
2. When making a left or right turn at any intersection.
3. At stop signs, after coming to a complete stop and before proceeding.
4. At traffic signals, even when the light is green, if pedestrians are still in crosswalk.
5. When entering a street or highway from an alley, driveway, or private road.
6. When approaching a blind person who is crossing a street or highway if they are carrying a white cane or being guided by a dog.

PASSING

How To Pass On A Two-lane Road

1. Check well ahead for "No passing zone" and oncoming cars. Be sure you have time and space enough to overtake the vehicle ahead and return to the right lane before an approaching vehicle comes within 200 feet of you.
2. Stay well back from the car ahead so you can see ahead. Check rearview and side mirrors, also turn your head and look back to check your "blind spot". Someone may be passing you. Signal left.
3. Tap your horn when necessary to alert the driver ahead.
4. Pass on the left and do not return to the right lane until safely clear of the overtaken vehicle. Wait until you can see the car you have just passed in your rearview mirror.
5. Signal right turn before returning to the right lane. Be sure to turn your signal off.

Passing On The Right

You may pass on the right of another vehicle which is making or about to make a left turn. You may also pass on the right when traveling on a multi-lane highway carrying two or more lanes of traffic in the same direction.

When Someone Passes You

When a driver behind you is overtaking your vehicle, be on your guard so that you may protect yourself from any unsafe actions by the other driver. It's a good idea to slow down just a little to make passing you easier. Remember that it is unlawful to increase your speed until you have been completely passed by the overtaking vehicle.